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Sub A1

12. A method for reshaping the cornea of an eye under a flap of corneal tissue which comprises the steps of:

focusing the rays of a pulsed laser beam within the stroma of the cornea to photoalter stromal tissue at only said focal point;

5 moving said focal point of said pulsed laser beam along a predetermined path within the stroma of the cornea to photoalter a layer of stromal tissue having a preselected shape, said layer being an interface between the interior surface of said flap and a bed of stromal tissue;

10 incising the cornea between the anterior surface of the cornea and the preselected layer to create a peripheral edge for said flap, said flap substantially overlying said bed of stromal tissue;

lifting said flap to expose said bed of stromal tissue;

15 photoaltering at least a portion of said bed of stromal tissue to create a void in the stromal tissue of the cornea; and replacing said flap over said void.

13. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said void is lens-shaped having an anterior surface, a posterior surface and an annular surface.

20 14. A method as recited in claim 13 wherein said anterior surface is concave shape.

15. A method as recited in claim 13 wherein said posterior surface is convex shape.

25 16. A method as recited in claim 13 wherein said anterior surface is convex shape.

17. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said bed of stromal tissue has a boundary and said boundary is substantially in the shape of a circle.

5 18. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said bed of stromal tissue has a boundary and said boundary is substantially in the shape of a oval.

19. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said photoaltering step is accomplished using an excimer laser.

10 20. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said peripheral edge of said flap is formed with a tab to assist in lifting and repositioning of said flap.

21. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said peripheral edge of said flap is formed with an interlocking feature to hold said flap in place after said repositioning step.

15 22. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said photoaltering step is accomplished using a pulsed infrared laser.

23. A method as recited in claim 12 wherein said photoaltering step is accomplished using a visible pulsed laser.

Add A2 →